

CLINICAL ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES FOR CHIP EXTENDED MENTAL HEALTH BENEFITS

The Children's Health Insurance Plan provides mental health services for CHIP enrolled children through a 'basic' benefit package available to all CHIP children. There are also additional mental health services available through the Extended Mental Health Plan for children with a Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED). In order to qualify for additional mental health services, the child is evaluated to determine whether the SED criteria are met. **To determine whether a child meets the SED criteria, a mental health provider must complete a clinical assessment and submit it to CHIP. CHIP does not have a specific 'form' for the clinical assessment but provides the following guidelines as critical information needed in the assessment.**

CLINICAL ASSESSMENT

The assessment must:

- Be current (completed within the last six months);
- Include the SED DSM-IV diagnosis;
- Be completed by a licensed psychologist, social worker, or professional counselor (including a signature and date);
- Include a social history.

The diagnosis must be supported by rationale and specific behaviors (interactions at home, school, in the community, and with peers); presenting problem; history of problem; psychiatric history (interventions, responses, medications); social and educational history; and risk factors. **Please note the bolded criteria where it is particularly important to include specific examples regarding interactions at home, school, in the community, and with peers.**

- 1) Name of provider and their contact information
- 2) Assessment date
- 3) Child's name, birth date, age, gender, address, parent or guardian, etc
- 4) **Presenting problem/concern**
 - How long
 - How frequent
- 5) Current residential arrangements
- 6) **Social support system**
- 7) **Social history**
 - Childhood
 - Educational
 - Work/vocational
 - Legal history
 - Drug/alcohol history
 - Substance abuse; current
- 8) Mental health treatment history
- 9) Medications
- 10) **Specific behaviors and current difficulties that support the diagnosis**
 - How long
 - How frequent
 - Are these behaviors likely to continue for the next six months without treatment?
- 11) Risk factors
- 12) Case formulation
- 13) SED DSM-IV diagnosis
- 14) Initial treatment plan
- 15) Referral

PROCESS

Assessments and/or requested supplemental information are mailed or faxed to:

CHIP Extended Mental Health Plan Specialist
PO Box 202951
Helena Montana 59620

Fax: 1-877-418-4533

Once CHIP receives the clinical assessment and social history, Department of Public Health and Human Service staff reviews the assessment to determine if the child meets the SED criteria pursuant to the SED definition set forth in the Administrative Rules of Montana 37.86.3702(2).

If DPHHS clinicians determine the child meets the SED criteria, CHIP sends an approval letter to the child's family and mental health provider (who submitted the assessment). It lists the Extended Mental Health Plan benefit start date.

If DPHHS clinicians determine there is insufficient information to determine whether the child meets the SED criteria, CHIP will request more information from the mental health provider who submitted the assessment. A copy of the request for more information is also sent to the child's family.

If DPHHS clinicians determine the child does not meet the SED criteria, CHIP sends a denial letter to the child's family and mental health provider.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If CHIP families and/or providers have questions about the Extended Mental Health Plan for children with an SED, please contact CHIP at 1-877-543-7669, ext 0946 or 1-406 444-0946.

The CHIP website is www.chip.mt.gov. It provides information about the Extended Mental Health Plan under the 'tabs' on the "CHIP Provider Resources" or "CHIP Family Resources". Information online includes an Extended Mental Health Plan manual, fact sheet, clinical assessment guidelines, benefit table, and Montana Code Annotated reference for the definition of Serious Emotional Disturbance. Information on the website is updated as changes occur.